

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06466 240813Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 IO-13 /097 W
-----035071 240833Z /17

P R 240733Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2470
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6466

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, PINS, KS
SUBJECT: NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS UNION TO HOLD CONVENTION

REF: SEOUL 2559 (DTG 290638Z MAR 78) AND PREVIOUS

1. THE KOREAN NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS UNION (NTWU) WHICH FIGURED SO PROMINENTLY IN THE TONGIL TEXTILE DISPUTE AND SUBSEQUENT CONTROVERSY WITH THE URBAN INDUSTRIAL MISSION AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY WILL HOLD ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION FROM JULY 30 TO AUGUST 2. INCUMBENT PRESIDENT KIM YONG-TAE WILL BE CHALLENGED BY YI YU-POK, CURRENTLY NTWU EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT.

2. PRESIDENT KIM HAD DURING HIS TERM USED EVERY MEANS AVAILABLE TO HIM TO ELIMINATE ANY CHALLENGE TO HIS CONTINUED LEADERSHIP. HE WAS GENEROUS TO HIS SUPPORTERS AND RUTHLESS WITH POTENTIAL RIVALS--MANY OF WHOM HE HAD EXPELLED FROM THE NTWU. HIS RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF SURE VOTES OF SUPPORT PROBABLY ACCOUNTED AT LEAST IN PART FOR THE SHABBY ROLE THE NTWU PLAYED IN THE TONGIL TEXTILE DESPUTE. VICE PRESIDENT YI'S CHALLENGE HINTS THAT YI HAS CALCULATED THAT KIM OVERPLAYED HEAVY-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 06466 240813Z

HANDED TACTICS AND THAT HE MADE ENOUGH ENEMIES TO BE VULNERABLE TO ATTACK. OBSERVERS BELIEVE YI HAS DEVELOPED CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT, BUT FEW WILL PREDICT THAT YI HAS THE ELECTION IN THE BAG.

3. KIM HAS BEGUN AN INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN TO RALLY HIS FORCES, AN EFFORT SO INTENSE SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE IT SHOWS TRACES

OF DESPERATION. REPORTEDLY, HE HAS PERSONALLY CONTACTED LEADERS OF SOME NTWU BRANCHES WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT LABOR MOVEMENTS AND LEADERS OF NTWU BRANCHES WHICH HE HAD HAD EXPELLED FROM THE NATIONAL, APPEALING FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND PROMISING TO BURY PAST DIFFERENCES. IN ADDITION, KIM HAS SWITCHED THE SITE OF THE CONVENTION FROM SEOUL TO PUSAN, HIS HOME BASE OF SUPPORT. KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES IN THE CHRISTIAN LABOR MOVEMENT CLAIM SURPRISE THAT THE ROKG HAS NOT SHOWN ANY SIGN SO FAR THAT IT IS INTERESTED IN INFLUENCING THIS HOTLY CONTESTED ELECTION. WE TOO ARE LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION, BUT HAVE NOT SPOTTED ANY YET.

4. KIM IS NOT WITHOUT ACCOMPLISHMENT AS NTWU CHIEF. HIS MAJOR CONTRIBUTION CONSISTS OF HIS FIGHT TO CONTINUE NATIONWIDE BARGAINING OF A MINIMUM CONTRACT AGAINST STRONG MANAGEMENT RESISTANCE AND HIS PRESSURE ON ANY LOCALS WHICH MAKE SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS TO ACCEPT LOWER CONDITIONS THAN THOSE SET IN THE NATIONWIDE CONTRACT. (LOCALS ARE FREE TO BARGAIN FOR MORE). HE IS EXCEPTIONALLY AUTHORITARIAN AS A NATIONAL UNION LEADER, PREDATORY IN HIS RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONAL UNIONS, AND IT IS WIDELY RUMORED, NOT ABOVE STRIKING SEPCIAL DEALS WITH MANAGEMENT WHICH SUIT HIS PERSONAL NEEDS FROM TIME TO TIME. KIM'S RELATIONSHIP WITH FKTU PRESIDENT CHUNG TONG-HO IS POOR, BUT IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE FKTU IS IN A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 06466 240813Z

POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THIS ELECTION.

5. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IF KIM WERE DEFEATED, SOME OF THE HOSTILITY EXISTINGBETWEEN THE NTWU AND THE CHRISTIAN LABOR MOVEMENT MIGHT DECREASE.
GLEYSTEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, TEXTILE WORKERS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL06466
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780303-0024
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780727/aaaaawod.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 442df96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SEOUL 2559
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1906711
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS UNION TO HOLD CONVENTION
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, PINS, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/442df96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014